

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

8/21/77

INCOMING
TELEGRAM
9286

PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-15

AK 243

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 /073 W
-----085922 211932Z /46

O 211839Z AUG 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2020

BUENOS AIRES 6816

E. O. 12065: XDS-1, 8/21/09 (CASTRO, RAUL H) OR-M
TAGS: AR, SHUM
SUBJECT: (C) GOA TO HOLD PRESS CONF AT 1800 HRS. CONDEMNING USG

REF: BA 6782 AND BA 6803

1. - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. GOA AMBASSADOR TO US, JORGE AJA ESPIL, CALLED ON ME AT 14:20 HRS. (AUG 21) AT THE REQUEST OF FONMIN PASTOR IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN SOME TYPE OF CLARIFICATION ON TOM RESTON'S LAST PRESS CONFERENCE WHEREIN HE REFERRED TO REPORTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING KILLED IN ARGENTINA AND SAID AMEMBASSY BA HAD BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE SUCH CHARGES.

3. ACCORDING TO AJA ESPIL, FONMIN AND REST OF GOA ARE INCENSED OVER THE LAST RESTON STATEMENTS. FONMIN WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT TO CLARIFY STATEMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING KILLED AND ALSO ON AMEMBASSY BEING ASKED TO INVESTIGATE. GOA'S CONTENTION IS THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA AND SECONDLY GOA DOESN'T APPROVE OF AN EMBASSY PLAYING POLICEMAN AND CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS ON THEIR OWN, WITHOUT PRIOR GOA KNOWLEDGE. FONMIN CONTENDS EMBASSY SHOULD FIRST INQUIRE FROM GOA ABOUT ALLEGED REPORTS.

4. IN OTHER WORDS, FONMIN SUGGESTS PERHAPS TOM RESTON MEANT AMEMBASSY WOULD INVESTIGATE WITH GOA RATHER THAN MAKING A INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION WITHOUT TOUCHING BASE WITH GOA. IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED PERHAPS WORD "POLITICAL" BE OMITTED OR SOME OTHER SUITABLE EXPLANATION BE GIVEN.

5. AJA ESPIL STATED UNLESS SOME TYPE OF CLARIFICATION IS MADE BY 1800 HRS., GOA WILL ISSUE A HARD-HITTING AND DAMAGING STATEMENT WHICH WILL SERIOUSLY IMPAIR RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.

6. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON THIS MATTER, AS FONOFF PROBABLY EXPECTS AN ANSWER BEFORE 1800 HRS. TODAY. ARGENTINE'S "DANDER IS UP" AND ALL OF US ARE IN FOR TOUGH TIMES AHEAD. LOCAL PRESS IS EXPECTED TO HAVE A FIELD DAY ON THIS SUBJECT.
CASTRO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

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Box 17404